

## **AIRWAY IMPLANT**

### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method and apparatus are disclosed for treating a condition of a patient's  
5 airway. The condition is attributed at least in part to a spacing of tissue from opposing  
surfaces in the airway. In one embodiment, the method and apparatus include placing a  
tissue contractor within the tissue. The contractor includes a static end and a tissue in-  
growth engaging end. The static end is secured to a bony structure adjacent to tissue to  
be contracted. The tissue in-growth engaging end is secured to the tissue and spaced  
10 from the bony structure. A spacing between the tissue engaging end and a bony end is  
contracted in order to place the tissue under tension.